



# The OSCILLATOR

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September 2011



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w6abm@arrl.net

## Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club



### "MY TWO CENTS" Pat Roberson

I hope that everyone who attended the Ice Cream Social enjoyed themselves. The weather was perfect and the company was great.

Thanks to everyone for their prayers and support for Jenny, KA7JNY. Over the past couple of days they have given her chemotherapy treatments. As of last night she had a lot of nausea, which is normal for chemo.

They are giving Jenny a blood transfusion as well. She will be in the hospital for four to six weeks. When she comes home she will be an outpatient and will continue with treatments.

She will be off of work for about six months. They told us it takes a year for full recovery from Acute Leukemia.

I hope everyone has a great Labor Day weekend, stay safe.

Pat Roberson KA7PAT  
President, OTVARC

Warren and Barb Winner want to thank everyone for all the love, prayers and support shown through the last few weeks. Warren continues to recover at home.

### COUNTY HUNTING

Dick Neumann W9JR is an avid County Hunter. We asked Dick to tell us about this part of his ham radio life. This is Part II of his story which began last month.

#### THE WHOLE BALL OF WAX

Some County Hunters are really serious about this hobby, and have gotten the WBOW (Whole Ball of Wax) multiple times. I wondered how they were able to do that because I was teaching full time, and was only able to be at the radio in the evenings and weekends. Later, when I retired, I learned the secret of the WBOW...spend all day making and logging county contacts! Some specialize by going the route using only SSB. Or CW. I was doing it mixed... SSB and/or CW. I received my first USA-CA #969 on Feb. 22, 1999. That means it took me several years to obtain my goal. My second USA-CA #393 came two years ago on September 18, 2009, a considerably shorter time.

CH'ers have many other award aspects of county hunting...

See BALL OF WAX Page 4

### CLUB MONTHLY MEETING

The September Club Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 15th at Community Building, Sunset Presbyterian Church, 14986 NW Cornell Rd, just off US 26 (Exit 65) in Beaverton. The Meeting begins at 7:00 pm.

Watch [www.otvarc.org](http://www.otvarc.org) for program announcement for the September meeting.

OTVARC is affiliated with ARRL: The National Association for Amateur Radio and is a Special Service Club. Check out the map at: [tinyurl.com/otvarc-site](http://tinyurl.com/otvarc-site)

Guests are always welcome.

Questions? [otvarc@gmail.com](mailto:otvarc@gmail.com)

### TRAVELERS' CAMPOUT

16 - 18 September 2011

Waterloo County Park  
on the Santiam River

You don't need an RV  
To Participate

Pot luck at 5:30 on Saturday

INFO: Dick Ballard  
[dickballard@comcast.net](mailto:dickballard@comcast.net)

<http://www.co.linn.or.us/parks/parks/waterloo.html>



## DF3CB - Hams Giving Back



Bernd Koch DF3CB has been a licensed amateur radio operator since 1977. In these 34 years as a ham, he has achieved a

significant record as a Contester and DX operator. From his station in Munich, Germany, he has DXCC Honor Roll Mixed (349); Phone (348), CW (348, needing P5) and RTTY (343).

Bernd says that 99% of his operating is CW. He has worked all 40 zones on 160 meters and has 34

zones on 6 meters. The current DF3CB radio station, located in Munich, Germany, has three towers and ten HF/6m antennas.

At the age of 12, Bernd's parents DF3CP and DL1MAO, asked whether he wanted to join them in learning ham radio. They joined the Deutsche Amateur-Radio-Club (DARC) and studied for their licenses in a course offered by the local club. he was fascinated by CW and learned it in weeks. It wasn't long before his Dad bought an HF receiver, which he claimed as his own. I had to two years before the German license regulations allowed him to take the license exam. In the interim, he listened to the HF bands and sent SWL cards. He was licensed as soon as regulations allowed. His first goal was 5 Band DXCC! It took a few years but he did it with 100 watts. Next he built an amplifier and installed Yagis and an inverted Vee for 160 to 40. With these antennae he attained second place in Europe in the CQWW Single Op Assisted category twice.

Bernd is giving back to amateur radio. He develops software for amateur radio purposes. On his website, he offers four programs. He has BV, a professional software package for QSL Management and Label or QSL Printing.

See DF3CB, Column 2

## JOE N7BF: THE LUCK OF THE IRISH

Have you gone to a hamfest or convention and purchased those drawing tickets for nice prizes only to hear everyone else's ticket drawn? Joe Kelly N7BF knows that feeling. He claims he hasn't won anything since the eighth grade.

The Pacific Northwest DX Convention, hosted by the Western Washington DX Club, was held in Everett, Washington, August 12-14. Joe Kelly bought some tickets on the End-Fed Zep Antenna. Joe's ticket was drawn. Nice return on a \$20 investment.

The drawing for the Registration Prize, an ICOM IC-7410 donated by ICOM took place at the Saturday night Banquet. The final drawing, for the 2nd Grand Prize, a \$1,200 Gift Certificate donated by STEPPIR, was at the Sunday Breakfast.

While standing in line for Breakfast on Sunday, the winner of the Grand Prize, Mel Ming N7GCO, commented that he didn't sleep well. It seems he was excited by his win of the Yaesu FT-2000 at the banquet. Mel commented that the winner of the Registration Prize wasn't there. Joe, of course, asked who won. Mel responded N7BF, and looked at Joe's name tag with the N7BF call sign. After determining that Mel wasn't pulling his leg, Joe began to celebrate the winning of the IC-7410. The story isn't over. Guess who won the final drawing, for the \$1,200 STEPIR Gift Certificate. Some Irish are REALLY lucky!

## DF3CB, from Column 1

It is mainly designed for the contester and QSL manager, but is useful for other QSL'ing purposes as well. Fast Log Entry is a program that creates ADIF files from manually entered QSO records. This is useful if you couldn't take a logging computer on your DXpedition. Alpha 87A Control Software to fully operate the amplifier via software. Finally, he offers FT2000RC for the YAESU FT-2000. It fully remotes the FT-2000 over the internet or other network. Take a look at these programs at [www.df3cb.com/software/](http://www.df3cb.com/software/).



## AUGUST ACTIVE FOR OTVARC

August turned out to be one of the more active months for club activities and projects. The Annual Picnic and Ice Cream Social at Rood Bridge Park in Hillsboro was a great success.



This "watermelon art" by Rosalind Kane, XYL for Phil K2ASP, caught everyone's attention. A purely social activity, the Picnic and Ice Cream Social has become a highlight event. This year we had perfect weather.

Saturday, August 20, saw the Club Trailer in action as the center of our Summer NAQP effort. Parked in the parking lot of a Hillsboro light-industrial park, OTVARC's Contest Group fielded a Multi-Operator Two-Transmitter entry. The team used a club-owned Yaesu 840 transceiver on 40 meters and a brand new Icom 7410, owned by Joe Kelly N7BF, on 20 meters. See Joe's story on this transceiver elsewhere in this issue. Hamstick Dipoles were used on both bands until afternoon, when Steve Jackson KD7ABE erected his portable Super Antenna 3-element beam for the 20 meter station. We had we had seven operators in the log and worked a total of 33 states and three Canadian provinces. Joe worked all the DX: New Zealand and Kaliningrad.

Finally, the third Fifth Wednesday Contest on August 31st drew twelve stations in the hour-long session. Our next Fifth Wednesday will be on November 30th.

## W7OTV FIELD DAY COMPARISONS

Field Day has many measures of success. Fielding an operation off-the-grid in a quasi-emergency style is one. Generating a good turn-out of members, family supporters, and members of the general public is another.

Field Day is not a contest, but we do keep score. We compare our scores with similar operations by other clubs and groups. The most important comparison is with ourselves. In participation and in score, we want to learn and improve our operation. Here is a look at our last six year's effort with 3A in 2006, 2007, and 2008, and 4A in 2009, 2010, and this year. Note that our best score in number of QSOs took place in 2009, our first year as a 4A operation. However, our best year in points was this year. We made a significant effort at earning bonus points this year.

YEAR	CLASS	QSO's	POINTS	OREGON	NW
2011	4A	1353	6156	TBD	TBD
2010	4A	1338	4694	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>
2009	4A	1383	5526	1 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>
2008	3A	789	3810	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>
2007	3A	566	3080	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>
2006	3A	641	3152	2 <sup>nd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>

Plans for our 2012 Field Day are in the discussion stage now. This is the time to join the conversation.

- Should we repeat the 2011 Plan in 2012?
- Should we move to 5A to open more opportunities for operators, modes?
- How can we re-interest the members of our RV Group, the Travelers' who used to be a key part of our effort?
- Could we add directional beam antennae for our operation?

Your input should go to Ron KD7VIK, Field Day Coordinator, or by email to [otvarc@gmail.com](mailto:otvarc@gmail.com)



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### BALL OF WAX, from Page 1

making all contacts with mobiles in their 18-wheelers, all YL's, all OM/YL couples, plus other interesting awards. I received my BINGO #313 award on October 6, 2009. What is BINGO, you ask? BINGO is the word used by CH'ers to identify the MASTER COUNTY HUNTER. This means that a ham going for this award must make a two-way radio contact with a ham in a county whose first initial is in the suffix of CH'er. For instance, my call is W9JR. If I was mobile in my county, Richland Wisconsin, I would qualify as a BINGO contact because I have R in my call suffix. If it was in Juneau County, I would qualify because I have J in my suffix. And so on around the country. Wherever I was in a county whose name started with a J or an R, I would qualify as a BINGO contact for the person seeking the BINGO award.

So, I went through my logbook to check on the callsigns of mobiles to determine if they were in a county whose name started with the letter that correlated with a letter in their callsign. We have "wild cards". If the mobile has an X in their call sign, that person is good for BINGO in ANY county. That is pretty cool, because I had many contacts with hams having an X in their call.

Yep! I was now listening for mobile hams in counties that began with a letter in their call suffix, and for those having an X in their call. That added intrigue to my hunt. Today with many online logging programs it all became just a bit easier. Another "wild card" is making a mobile contact with another ham already having a USA-CA number. Fun, right?

Obtaining the WBOW for BINGO took a few years to accomplish, and I was very happy when my Master County Hunter (BINGO) award was issued on October 6...my birthday.

Now I am trying for a USA-CA 3rd time by making a two-way PSK31 contact with hams in all 3,077 counties of the U.S. I have been told that this is a very ambitious project...but I am accepting the challenge and will continue my quest whether I finish this one or not. It's great fun and very rewarding. My logbook lists 543 PSK31 contacts to date...I still have a long way to go.

County Hunting is a fascinating part of my amateur radio hobby, but I must warn you...IT IS ADDICTING...because the more county contacts you get, the more you want. There are many ham contests and "contesters", but County Hunting is not a contest...you can take as much time as you want to accomplish your goal. That suited me just fine.

Irma Bombeck once said, "The measure of achievement is not winning awards, it is doing something that you appreciate, something you believe is worthwhile." What she said is absolutely perfect for those ham radio operators seeking the WBOW...their USA-CA number. Good luck!

Go here for more information:  
<http://www.cquest.com/ch/>

### RESERVING FOR FIELD DAY 2012

We've been asked how to reserve a space or cabin for Field Day 2012 at Stub Stewart State Park. To make a reservation, go go [www.reserveamerica.com](http://www.reserveamerica.com) and select Stub Stewart and the accommodation. Fee for reservation is \$8 plus cost of accommodation. For June 22-24, 2012, the earliest you can reserve is Thursday September



**HAMFESTS & CONVENTIONS****8 OCTOBER 2011****Pacific Northwest VHF Society  
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2850 NW Rippling River Court  
Bend, OR 97701

www.pnwvhfs.org

Talk-In: 146.94 (PL 162.2) &amp; 144.24 USB

Donald Krug K7HSJ

61245 Paulina Lane Bend, OR 97702

541-382-7561

ghcdk@bendnet.com

**22 October 22 2011****16th Annual Swap-Tober-Fest 2011**Amateur Radio Emergency Services  
Convention and Swap Meet520 S Pacific Highway West, Rickreall, OR  
Mid-Valley ARES

PO Box 27

Monmouth OR 97361

www.swaptoberfest.net

**1 - 3 JUNE 2012****SEA-PAC****NW Division ARRL Convention**

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**HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY**

6	Raul Gonzalez	N7BAR
7	Luther W Brisky	KC7KVL
7	Cindy Ward	AD7PS
10	Richard Hicks	KF7JFU
15	Bob Heath	KD7OHF
14	Cynthia Palmrose	KA7ZIJ
19	Gerald Burn	KA7UQO
21	Michael S. Nelson	N7IQM
23	Ryan Heath	KD7QZL
28	Dick Lukins	KD7YGB

Did we miss your birthday? Perhaps we don't have it in our list. Drop a note to: otvarc@gmail.com

**SEPTEMBER LUNCH BUNCH**

Saturday September 20th  
at 1:30 PM

Rock Creek Tavern  
10000 NW Old Cornelius Pass Rd  
Hillsboro, OR

Talk In: 147.54 MHz Simplex  
Questions?

Linda KC7YTD  
kc7ytd@gmail.com  
503.645.3823 (New Number)

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:**

**2012 HOLIDAY DINNER**  
**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8TH**  
**SUNSET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

(Note Date Change)

**CLUB FREQUENCIES**

**Simplex: 147.54 MHz**  
**Repeaters: 146.96 MHz (Goat Mtn)**  
**223.94 MHz (Goat Mtn)**  
**440.25 MHz (Goat Mtn)**

CLUB MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 15

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~~Ad and Mary Borg~~

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